The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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MOB SPIRIT ASSAILED BY PRESIDENT WILSON

Washington, Aug. 3.—For the second time since this country entered the war President Wilson has publicly denounced alleged "Americans" who resort to mob law and lynching courts to prove their "loyalty."

The president's first utterance on this subject was at last year's convention of the American Federation of Labor.

"I want to say to every man who does join such a mob," he declared, "that I do not recognize him as worthy of the free institutions of the United States."

In a proclamation on this subject, the president again uses the English language in his plain and forceful manner in denouncing this "disgraceful evil," and calls upon peace officers of states, "and, above all, the men and women of every community in the United States, all who revere America and wish to keep her name without stain or reproach, to actively and watchfully assist in checking mob law.

"We are at this very moment fighting lawless passion," he says.

"Germany has outlawed herself among the nations because she has disregarded the sacred obligation of law and has made lynchers of her armies. Lynchers emulate her disgraceful example. I, for my part, am anxious to see every community in America rise above that level, with pride and a fixed resolution which no man or set of men can afford to despise.

"We proudly claim to be the champions of democracy. If we really are, in deed and in truth, let us see to it that we do not discredit our own. I say plainly that every American who takes part in the action of a mob or gives any sort of countenance is no true son of this great democracy, but its betrayer, and does more to discredit her by that single disloyalty to her standards of law and right than the words of her statesmen or the sacrifices of her heroic boys in the trenches can do to make suffering people believe her to be their savior.

"How shall we commend democracy to the acceptance of other peoples, if we disgrace our own by proving that it is, after all, no protection to the weak?

"Every mob contributes to German lies about the United States, what her most gifted liars cannot improve upon by the way of calumny. They can at least say that such things cannot happen in Germany except in times of revolution, when law is swept away.

"I can never accept any man as a champion of liberty, either for ourselves or for the world, who does not reverence and obey the laws of our own beloved land, whose laws we ourselves have made. He has adopted the standards of the enemies of his country, whom he affects to despise."

HINT TO EMPLOYER.

Ottawa, Ontario, Aug. 3.—In writing to the general manager of one of the largest concerns in Canada in reference to its frequent labor disturbances, Dominion Minister of Labor Crothers said:

"My own judgment is (you will pardon me for stating it so frankly) that it is the duty of the employer himself to adopt such means as may be found necessary for the maintenance of peace and contentment among his workmen. The fact that many succeed in doing so is strong evidence that it is neither necessary or expedient that others should appeal to the government for drastic action whenever any labor disturbance is impending.

"Speaking generally, I have found working men reasonable and responsive to considerate, frank and fair treatment, but naturally they do not appreciate being entirely ignored concerning conditions — financial and otherwise—in enterprises in which they are engaged, and this especially under war conditions with high salaries and large profits."

FAVOR ELECTRICITY.

New York, Aug. 3.—President Rice of the American institute of electrical engineers told the convention of that organization that the cure for the coal situation and many of the transportation ills of the country lay in the electrification of American railroads.

"Where electricity has been substituted for steam in the operation of railroads," he said, "fully 50 per cent increase in available capacity of existing tracks and other facilities has been demonstrated."

He said that electric engines speeded up schedules as high as 25 per cent and that cold weather did not interfere with the operation of electrified railroads. It was stated that 25,000,000 horsepower of water power was available in the United States for the generation of electricity to run the roads.

CO-OPS TO MEET.

Springfield, Ill., Aug. 3.—The Central States Co-operative society has issued a call for a consumers' co-operative convention to be held in this city starting September 24 next.

One of the purposes of the meeting will be to start a campaign of education among workers.

These co-operators say that their movement—which is officered by trade unionists—will increase the strength of the trade union movement in the exact proportion to which the co-operative movement is established, and that in just the same degree as it is established will it mean added strength to the workers in fighting for better wages, shorter hours and safer and more healthful conditions.

Every bona fide Consumers' Rochdale Co-operative society of 100 members or less will be entitled to send one delegate to this convention.

BIG MEMBERSHIP GAIN.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—The membership of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of America has jumped from 6,500, in August of last year, to 70,000.

Last year this union's treasury contained $846, with numerous liabilities. Cash on hand today totals $60,000, with all debts paid.

The union has established the eight-hour day, raised wages and improved working conditions during the past year because of its wonderful growth that forced meat packers to accept arbitration.

HUGE STEEL PROFITS.

New York, Aug. 3.—While large employing interests affect a terrified attitude when greater taxes on profits are mentioned, the report of the United States steel corporation for the second quarter of this year shows the increasing prosperity of this trust.

After setting aside over $90,00,000 for the war income and excess profits taxes, there remained a balance of over $62,000,000, after allowing for operating expenses, ordinary repairs, maintenance and interest on bonds of subsidiary concerns.

RAILROAD SHOP MEN PROTEST WAGE AWARD

Washington, Aug. 3.—Acting in accordance with instructions of the membership of the A. F. of L railway employes' department, the executive council of the department will protest the recent wage award of Director General of Railroads McAdoo, and will again submit their original request for 75 cents an hour for mechanics.

While the award is an advance over the first award, effective June 1, it falls far short of rates paid in ship yards. This is shown by the 68-cent award for machinists, boiler makers, blacksmiths, sheet metal workers, molders and first class electrical workers.

Another objection is the classification of electrical workers and the 68-cent award for "car men and second class electrical workers." Under this clause such highly skilled workers as pattern makers, cabinet makers, painters and coach builders are listed as "car men" and given a rate that can not be compared with rates for the same grade of work in private industry or in ship yards.

Helpers are awarded a 45-cent rate, as against the 56-cent request of the shop men.

The award recognizes the eight-hour day, beginning August 1. Time and one-half will be paid for overtime, Sunday work and seven specified holidays.

Payment of back pay will be made just as soon as it can be calculated. The new rates will date back from the first of the year.

HOW TO CREATE SPIRIT.

Washington, Aug. 3.—The success of a movement depends upon the spirit injected into it and developed by individual members of the movement. This is shown in an address by Rear Admiral McGowan, paymaster general of the United States navy, in an address to a class at the naval academy.

Admiral McGowan is classed as one of the most efficient officers in the navy and has charge of furnishing supplies. He is unknown to the public generally but his success in his work is indicated by this portion of his address, which is applicable to other activities:

"You men must know that in the beginning the Lord created the navy of the United States and that the rest of the universe grew up around it merely by accident. You must not only know it, but always bear it in mind.

"You must know how and when to say 'no.' That little word is the mule power of the soul and the watchword of the paymaster general. You must not only say it, but you must know how to stick to it."

Washington, Aug. 3.—The council of national defense declares that "a singing army can not be defeated; a singing nation can not be defeated," and calls on state councils of defense to appoint a state musical director, who will create county liberty choruses throughout the various states.

"The liberty choruses," it is stated, "will sing at all patriotic mass meetings and public gatherings of every sort, and no effort will be spared to use them as a means of making the people of every community learn the songs of our nation, and its allies, and learn to get together and sing them."

DENOUNCE MOB SPIRIT.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Following the action of President Wilson the state councils section of the council of national defense denounces the mob spirit and calls for the full weight of public opinion to stop this un-American practice.

It is declared that these mobs are a blot upon the war record of a nation which has declared itself to be fighting for a universal reign of law, and that they furnish ammunition to those makers of enemy propaganda who are trying to make the world believe that the enemies of Germany, too, are capable of atrocities.

State councils of defense are urged to assist in stamping out sedition by lawful means and by lawful means only, and to insist that differences and disputes are adjusted, not by voluntary or self-constituted committees, but by official authorities.

AIR MAIL COST SMALL.

Washington, Aug. 3.—The post office department announces that postal air planes are being operated at a cost of approximately 50 cents a mile between Washington, Philadelphia and New York. Nine machines traveled 7,224 miles, at a cost of $3,632. This includes interest on investment, overhead charges, labor, pilots' pay, gasoline, "dead head" time of mechanics, supplies and all other charges. In view of these figures the government has reduced air plane postage from 25 to 16 cents for the first ounce.

If this mail delivery was controlled by a private corporation, instead of reduced postage the people would be handed a huge block of common stock. The receipts for this sale would be pocketed by the few with the 25-cent postage retained to pay interest on "water."

VICTIMIZED WIN.

Kingston, Ontario, Aug. 3.—Several employes of the Davis tannery were discharged because of their interest in the new Leather Workers' union. A strike followed and the department of labor decided against the company. The verdict was rejected by the employers, who were finally forced to accept the workers' demand that the victimized be reinstated and that improved working conditions be conceded.

ASK PROTECTION.

Aberdeen, Wash., Aug. 3.—The central labor council has asked that the state industrial insurance act be so amended that men working on boats after they are launched be given the same protection accorded workers in other industries in this state.

WIRE MEN SUCCEED.

Pittsburg, Pa., Aug. 3. — The Electrical Contractors' association has accepted the new wage scale of Electrical Workers' union No. 5. Wages will be 90 cents an hour, double pay for overtime and free transportation where the cost is over one car fare.

DRUG CLERKS UNITE.

Scranton, Pa., Aug. 3.—Drug clerks in this city have organized and are chartered by the Retail Clerks' International Protective association. An agreement covering working conditions will be presented to employers.

CRADLES OR COFFINS? ASKS BRITISH EDITOR

London, England, Aug. 3.—Under the caption "Cradles or Coffins?" the editor of Reynolds's Newspaper prints this stirring appeal against child labor:

"An imperial race cannot be fostered in slums, nor can the strong arms and sound organs needed for our real advancement be developed on impure milk, insufficient food in the years that count, or childhood's days passed among dirt and bad air. Two things stand before us as immediate duties—to teach the mothers and to help the mothers, that we may decrease to some extent infant mortality from the more obviously preventible causes. But that is only a tiny part of our task. What we have to aim at is a state of things in which the child of the worker will have an equal chance with the child of those parents whose lot in life is thrown among more pleasant places.

"No longer must there be ear given to the theory that bad conditions are in some way good, because they harden the survivors. A damnable doctrine, and one that would excuse the abandonment of all attempts to ensure healthy homes, regular and sufficient food, and opportunities for the full development of physical and mental powers of all the people, no matter how lowly may be their lot.

"It is not only the unfit who are killed off by ignorance, by carelessness, by neglect of those in power to see that decent conditions are provided. We do not believe the national conscience is yet sufficiently aroused to the vital need of the time; but the war has lighted a flame which we hope will never be put out.

"When the battles in France and elsewhere are fought to their conclusion, there will still be one battle it will take all our energy to win. It is the battle of cradles against coffins."

U. S. WAR RISK ASKS AID.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Through President Gompers Director DeLanoy of the bureau of war risk insurance invites the trade union movement to locate instances calling for corrective or other action on the part of the bureau, and, having ascertained the facts, to communicate to the bureau. A similar invitation is extended all charitable, benevolent, philanthropic, patriotic and other organizations.

It is the desire of the bureau to give the promptest service and quickly remove any complaint of our soldiers and sailors and their dependents. Trade unions and individuals are urged to notify the bureau of war risk insurance regarding any such complaint.

"Manifestly," says Director DeLanoy, "care should be taken in each instance to properly identify and communicate the precise name and address and allotment, or other identifying number, of the party in whose behalf the complaint is made, and the name of the soldier or sailor, of his regiment or other organization or ship, thus enabling the bureau to locate, as speedily as possible, the file containing its record on the subject."

ASKS JUSTICE FOR MOONEY.

San Francisco, Aug. 3.—The San Francisco Daily News asks this pointed question, in a leading editorial:

"If Mooney is hanged on no weightier ground than the perjuries of that depraved line of witnesses that appeared against him, what will be the effect on America's working men; on England's, France's, Italy's and Russia's?

"Thinking men will fear the outcome. There is no defense for the hanging of Mooney. America can offer no explanation than that justice has gone wrong—and justice can not afford to go wrong in America today.

"All that the president has asked, all that any man has asked, is that Mooney be given a new and honest trial. An honest trial is a trial that is free from perjury, and jury fixing, and prejudiced judges, and other wrongs that from time to time have defiled the courts."

R. R. OWNERS PLAY SAFE.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Owners of railroad stock are objecting to the form of contract which the government asks them to accept because of government railroad control.

The stockholders are not blind to the possibility of the national ownership of railroads, and want things fixed so that they will be paid for "good will," in addition to the actual cost of the properties.

Objection is also made to the government diverting traffic by the shortest route. If the roads revert to the owners after the war, they want to be protected against this loss of business, in the event that the public will continue to demand the quickest service and disregard the necessity for dividends, through unnecessary freight charges.

PRINTERS TO MEET.

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 3.—Reports of officers to the sixty-fourth session of the International Typographical union, to be held in Scranton, Pa., August 12-17, next, shows that 71.4 per cent of all moneys paid into the treasury during the last fiscal year reverted to the membership as follows: Mortuary benefits, $312,426.27; strike benefits and special assistance, $8,617.66; old age pensions, $354,020; union printers' home, $150,962.44. Total, $825,926.37. Benefits for actual strikes amounted to $1,237.56.

The membership's gross earnings are estimated at more than $71,000,000, an increase of $5,100,000 over the preceding year.

REFUSE TO MEET EMPLOYES.

Madison, Wis., Aug. 3.—Certain employers in this city are so intent on licking the kaiser and making the world safe for democracy that they have refused to meet employes who are asking for a wage to meet present living costs. Government conciliators have attempted to adjust matters.

U. S. YARD BREAKS RECORD.

San Francisco, Aug. 3.—By putting the United States destroyer Ward in commission 70 days after her keel was laid the Mare island navy yard has smashed all world's records. Before the war from 20 to 24 months was required to complete this type of vessel.

PAINTERS ORGANIZE.

Wilmington, N. C., Aug. 3.—Painters and decorators in this city have organized and affiliated with the Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators.

GREAT LAKES STRIKE OF SEAMEN AVERTED

Washington, Aug. 3.—The strike of the Sailors' Union of the Great Lakes and the Marine Firemen, Oilers and Water Tenders' union, to be effective July 29, has been called off, following a conference with Chairman Hurley of the United States shipping board.

The Lake Carriers' association, which controls about 500 vessels, has been notified by the shipping board to accept, as individuals and as an association, "the nation's appeal for men to man its merchant ships as originally drafted and without any changes."

Mr. Hurley asked the lake carriers to suspend compelling employes to join its welfare association pending further negotiations.

The lake carriers had refused to accept the Atlantic agreement, drafted several months ago by the government, vessel owners and marine workers. This agreement includes Atlantic and gulf ports and was later accepted by Pacific coast vessel owners. It provides for improved working conditions and the training of seamen. The lake carriers declined to sit in this conference because of a fear that it would "mean recognition of trade unionism." Later the great lakes marine workers declared they would strike against the lake carriers' "welfare system," which included registration at company offices and the possession of a book containing the worker's record as an essential to employment. Facing a strike last October, the vessel owners agreed to have the government investigate this system and abide by its decision. The award was against them, but the owners have made no effort to live up to the decision.

Although the second strike has been declared off large numbers of marine workers are leaving the lakes. Reports to officers of the Seamen's union show that many of their lake members have asked their draft boards to take them out of class 4 and put them in class 1, as they "would rather go to the trenches than sail in lake carriers' vessels."

In the meantime the carriers give no indication of abandoning their anti-union attitude, even though it hampers war production. This calling is most essential, as the vessels transport iron ore and wheat from Lake Superior ports to the eastern end of the great lakes system.

WOULD EVADE 8-HOUR DAY.

Eureka, Cal., Aug. 3.—The Labor News continues its campaign against lumber operators in this county who are attempting to evade the eight-hour day which was forced upon them last March.

The Labor News says that bonuses, piece work and contract, "a trinity of methods used to grind men down to sweat shop conditions," are now being tried on the timber workers.

"At first the piece system is apt to look like the fairest system that could be devised to determine the amount they should be paid," says this paper. "But experience has demonstrated thousands of times that it is a curse to labor and the ruination of the dupes that fall for it. The first effect is to speed men up. They tax themselves to the limit and beyond the limit.

"But it is not only the physical harm. In the long run the piece system leads to wage reductions for the reason that as soon as men begin to earn big wages by speeding the rate per piece is invariably reduced a little, then reduced more until finally a man has to work his head off to earn bare wages and as he soon wears himself out he is soon earning less per day on the piece work plan with no limit on his hours than he formerly got for a straight eight-hour day."

TO CONTROL STOCK YARDS.

Washington, Aug. 3.—President Wilson has signed the general regulations under which stock yards will operate.

They provide against extortionate or excessive charges for yardage or commission; require stock yards to maintain adequate facilities for handling live stock offered by salesmen; prohibit unfair dealing, combination or deceptive practices in buying and selling live stock, and prohibit the circulating of misleading information tending to affect prices.

Stock yards and all those engaged in connection with the buying or selling of live stock in stock yards are required to secure licenses. Chief of bureau of markets has been designated by the secretary of agriculture to look after the enforcement of all regulations. Market supervision may be placed at the principal markets and in regional offices on a later date.

MECHANICS SCARCE HERE.

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 3.—Fred J. Vaughan, state painter, says there are no mechanics in the state penitentiary at Florence to do needed repair work at that institution. He says that if gunmen were needed "we could get them easily, as we have some inside the walls as prisoners.

"I think this matter is of sufficient importance to attract public attention," said the state official. "Indeed it is remarkable when we consider the great strikes, the deportations and the overbearing, threatening and intimidating attitude of some county officials and gunmen toward the working men of this state within the past year."

BUTCHERS REDUCE HOURS.

Pueblo, Col., Aug. 3.—The long strike against the Nuckols Packing company has ended by both sides accepting a decision by the state industrial commission. The 10-hour day is reduced to nine hours until next December, when eight hours will be the rule. The 10-hour wage will continue, but wages of women will be increasd 25 cents a day until next December, when an additional 25 cents will be paid. The award includes time and one quarter for the first two hours of overtime, time and one half for overtime above two hours and double time for Sunday and holiday work.

LABOR COMMISSIONER DIES.

St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 3.—William F. Houk, for seven years labor commissioner of this state, died suddenly while on a vacation in Wisconsin. Deceased was a member of the Typographical union, which he joined in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1883.

The governor has appointed John P. Gardner, member of Machinists' union, this city, to fill the vacancy.

RETAIL CLERKS UNITE.

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 3.—A Retail Clerks' union has been formed in this city with a membership of 200.

JUMP FROM 50 TO 70 CENTS.

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 3.—Boiler Makers' union No. 193 has raised wages from 50 to 70 cents an hour.

WAR BUREAU TO ASSIST BOARDING OF WORKERS

Washington, Aug. 3.—The United States housing corporation has created a fund of $25,000 to assist women in establishing boarding houses in the District of Columbia as a means of accommodating war workers who are flowing into this city. The money is part of the $10,000,000 appropriated by congress for housing war workers in the district.

The $25,000 will be administered by a committee on which will be representatives of various government agencies.

Loans will be made to women who prove themselves qualified to operate a boarding house for the government's emergency employes. The committee will pass upon the rent to be paid by the women for the houses and also upon the rent which, in turn, is to be charged the war workers who live in them. It will pass upon the suitability of all houses proposed, and also sanction the business arrangements involved in the opening of the houses.

After houses and rents are approved open letters of credit will, in worthy cases, be extended. On these letters boarding housekeepers will be enabled to purchase furniture and household equipment at prices to be approved by the committee.

The United States housing corporation was organized under the laws of the state of New York to build houses for war workers under legislation passed by congress. The articles of incorporation provide for the issuance of 1,000 shares of stock without par value. The stock is held on behalf of the government by Secretary of Labor Wilson who is credited with 998 shares, and President Eidlitz and Secretary Box of the housing corporation with one share each.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Aug. 3.—The annual convention of the Indiana state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Wednesday, September 25.

While the war will be given first place on the program, the convention call says:

"If you are interested in the questions of prison labor and how it affects free labor, of how to further the use of the label, of the wrongful use of the injunction in labor disputes, of child labor, of employers' liability, of factory inspection, of better protection for those working at hazardous employments, or of any of the many other questions that affect the industrial life of the country, you will take part in the affairs of the state federation of labor. For it is through this agency that the working people can bring their desires to public attention and achieve results."

Nebraska City, Neb., Aug. 3.—The eleventh annual convention of the Nebraska state federation of labor will convene in this city beginning September 9.

The call states that "one of the important purposes of the convention will be to perfect plans to conserve to the organized worker the opportunity to give and assist fully and freely in the winning of the war."

EASTLAND VICTIMS LOSE.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—A federal court has ruled that a claim of $34,500 for raising the steamer Eastland, which sunk in the Chicago river three years ago and destroyed the lives of over 800 excursionists, is a preferred claim. The vessel was recently sold for $46,000 and the court's decision shatters any hope the relatives may have had that damages could be collected.

The boat was built for the lake freight service, but top works were put on her and she keeled over when loaded with excursionists while tied to the docks. Local trade unionists warned the authorities that this would happen, but no attention was paid to the dangerous manner the boat was permitted to be handled.

In February, 1916, Federal Judge Sessions, at Grand Rapids, Mich., refused to order the extradition of six defendants connected with the boat-owning company who were charged with being responsible for the disaster. The court ruled that the Eastland was considered safe by owners, managers and navigators, and therefore the defendants were not to blame.

EXPRESS FRANKS REVOKED.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Franking privileges, which have been permitted by the various express companies, have been revoked by the United States railroad administration. Orders have been issued to the American Railway Express company, the new company established recently, to withdraw all franks and issue no new ones.

In the past this free service was given by the express companies to a large number of persons. The privilege was extended not only to express officers and employes, but to officers and employes of railroads. As a result of this practice thousands of express franks are in existence and large quantities of goods were carried free of charge.

"WORSE THAN LYNCHING."

Washington, Aug. 3—At a Mooney mass meeting, held in the nation's capital, Bourke Cochran, New York lawyer, said:

"The president of the United States, on Friday, published an address to his fellow citizens in which he declared the lynching of human beings was such an offense against justice and civilization that it amounted to a serious obstacle in the pathway of our armies to victory.

"Here is something worse than lynching. If lynching innocent people, by lawless mobs be enough to endanger our success, what must be said of lynchings by the very courts that are organized to enforce the law and prevent lynchings?"

OFFERS A SUBSTITUTE.

New York, Aug. 3.—The New York Union Printer makes this suggestion:

"We hear that 'food will win the war,' that 'money will win the war,' that 'ships will win the war.' The little old Union Printer agrees that all these declarations are quite apropos, but we desire to offer a substitute for the whole:

"Labor will win the war!"

U. S. LOANS TO FARMERS.

Washington, Aug. 3.—During June $8,342,420 were lent to farmers of this country by the federal land banks. On July 1 the total amount of mortgage loans placed since the establishment of these banks was $169,517,308. The Spokane district leads with $17,600,555.

YEAST MAKERS GAIN.

Baltimore, Md., Aug. 3.—Organized yeast makers have secured wage increases of 20 per cent.

"NO MINE LABOR" CRY IS OPERATORS' RUSE

Indianapolis, Aug. 3.—To support its repeated claim that the "no mine labor" cry is an attempt of coal operators to destroy labor standards, the United Mine Workers' Journal quotes this statement in an eastern newspaper:

"Leaders of the United Mine Workers through the Lehigh, Pa., field have been informed that efforts will be made at the next session of the legislature to bring about the repeal of the law which makes it necessary for men to work in the mines two years before they can get certificates as practical coal diggers. The companies will argue that the law is one of the obstacles in the way of increased production."

The United Mine Workers' Journal says that little news item lets the cat out of the bag.

"It was a clever bit of work the big interests did in starting the propaganda, for they nearly had the people believing that there might be something to it," says the miners' official paper.

"Day after day and week after week they have been flooding the country with statements that the anthracite industry was in a deplorable condition because of labor shortage. They very well knew it would be impossible to send any but experienced men in the mines as coal diggers because of the two-years'-experience law. Evidently they expected to raise such a hulla-baloo about the matter that the public would stand up on its hind legs and howl for the repeal of that law.

"So far as can be learned, however, there is no such wild yell for the law's repeal, except among those interests who are 'fernist' it on general principles. The fact is, the anthracite miners are working loyally and manfully and they are producing more anthracite now than in any previous year."

The miners' journal shows that this record has been established in the face of the fact that 30,000 men have left the anthracite fields to enter the military service or in other industries.

MAY STANDARDIZE WAGES.

Washington, Aug 3.—The war policies board is conferring with representatives of trade unions and employers concerning the national standardization of wages.

In anouncing this movement Chairman Felix Frankfurter of the war labor policies board indicates that country-wide wage standardization is in accord with the government's policy because it taxes profits and regulates prices of commodities. He says:

"Congress through the taxes on excess profits, the war industries board through its price fixing, the president through the veto of $2.40 wheat, have paved the way for standardization of wages.

"All these measures past and pending, have revealed the determination of the American people to let no one make money out of the war."

Mr. Frankfurter also says that additional methods "of keeping down the cost of living" are being investigated.

HOSPITAL BUILT QUICK.

Washington, Aug. 3.—The war department announces a record-built hospital at Staten Island, N. Y. The building is a one-story frame with every modern convenience. It is 156 feet long and 24 feet wide, with a porch 10½ feet wide the entire length of one side of the building.

It was erected and ready for occupancy 10 hours and 38 minutes after work started at 7 o'clock in the morning. When work was begun not a post-hole had been dug and none of the lumber was cut to size. At 7 o'clock 130 laborers began to dig the post-holes. During the next hour 434 men, carpenters, plumbers and electricians, were on the building, and between 11 and 12 o' clock 566 men were employed. At noon the roof had been finished and all windows had been fitted. At 3:30 the electricians, plumbers, sheet metal workers and pipe covers had finished. At 4:30 only 88 carpenters remained at work. At 5:38 the building was reported finished, completely wired, lights ready to be switched on, water running in the pipes, radiators set and fire extinguishers hanging on the wall.

WAR BOND HOLDERS DUPED.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Government officials say that liberty bond holders offer rich picking for wild cat promoters who are now selling between $250,000,000 and $500,000,000 worth of fraudulent securities every year. It is believed that fully 85 per cent of this vast sum has been exchanged for liberty bonds.

One government official states that these promoters are protected by skillful attorneys who advise them on a keep-out-of-jail policy. This makes conviction uncertain, and the only remedy is for the people to hold their bonds and be satisfied with a 4 or a 4½ per cent guarantee by Uncle Sam instead of buying a beautifully engraved certificate that is only worth the price of a sheet of paper.

NO OCEAN MONOPOLY.

New York, Aug. 3.—While monopolists may run amuck on land, Superior Court Judge Benedict of Brooklyn has ruled that they can't fence in the ocean and force the public to pay them to take a swim.

This decision was made in the case of a bathing establishment at Coney Island. The court said:

"Upon what moral or ethical consideration can the state justify the perpetual grant of land forming the shore of Coney Island for a mere trifling consideration of less than $200 an acre when it knows, or ought to know, that such a grant, by means of fences, can be made to return 1,000 per cent upon its cost each year?"

TO TEACH APPRENTICES.

Cincinnati, Aug. 3.—Organized bricklayers in this state have prepared a home study course, which has been approved by their international union. A few years ago the bricklayers voted that apprentices must attend a technical night school for one year. This has proved unsuccesful because many of the smaller towns and cities are not equipped with colleges or night schools.

FUR WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Aug. 3.—The joint wage board of Fur Workers' unions and the Fur Manufacturers' association have agreed to the following increases:

Workers receiving not over $25 a week, advanced 40 per cent; between $26 and $45, increase of 25 per cent; above $45, 20 per cent.

The union called strikes in three shops to enforce the above agreement.

CITIES MAY BUILD HOMES.

Boston, Aug. 3.—The state constitutional convention has voted to submit to the people whether cities and towns shall have the power to build homes.

AUSTRIAN MONARCHY GERMANY'S MAIN PROP

Washington, Aug. 3.—Writing in a local newspaper, L. Michailovitch, minister from Serbia to the United States, says Austria is indispensable to Germany, and that to dismember the feudalistic empire of the house of Hapsburg would spell defeat to kaiserism.

"In his great plan for the domination of the world," says the Serbian minister, "Germany has for her principal ally Austria-Hungary. Aided by that empire and across its territory, Germany's influence was to have spread over the Balkans and the Ottoman empire, right up to the Persian gulf. The existence and the reinforcing of Austria-Hungary was essential for the realization of this plan.

"An independent Serbia, carrying out a national, i. e., an anti-Austrian policy, was a barrier against the expansion of Germany toward the east. Germany had but one means—war.

"The present war did not begin by chance between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, but because the Hapsburg empire was indispensable to, and Serbia a danger for, German policy. The 28th day of July, 1914, the day of the declaration of war on Serbia by Austria-Hungary, is the day on which two principles entered on a bloody struggle, the principle of brutal domination against the principle of liberty and self-determination.

"For Germany, in consequence, the maintenance of Austria-Hungary is of capital importance; it is, as a matter of fact, the chief aim of the present struggle. Whatever may be the conditions of peace, if, after this war, Austria-Hungary still continues to exist, Germany will always have a free field and a route open for her expansion toward the east, and this for the reason that Austria-Hungary by the force of things, can only maintain herself with the support of Germany, and for that reason must carry on a pan-Germanic policy, which is besides quite in the traditions of that Teutonic dynasty, the Hapsburg monarchy."

U. S. TO CONTROL LABOR.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Starting with August 1 the supplying of war industries with common labor has been centralized in the employment service of the United States department of labor and all independent recruiting of this labor by manufacturers having a pay roll of more than 100 men is diverted to the government.

While common labor is only included at the present time, these restrictions will, as soon as possible, be extended to skilled labor. In the meantime recruiting of skilled labor for war production will be subject to federal regulations now being prepared.

Director General Densmore of the employment service says that this is probably the most drastic action that the government has taken since putting the national army draft into effect, and that its necessity is shown when it is realized that Pittsburg, for instance, is calling for men to go to Detroit, and in Detroit street car posters are asking men to go to Pittsburg. Another reason for the new plan is the almost universal practice of labor stealing by employers, who are continually luring men from place to place, thereby causing an economic loss and large "turnovers" because of this shifting that retards war production.

The employment service has divided the country into 13 districts, each district in charge of a superintendent. The states within each district are in charge of a state director.

MINE MACHINERY BAD.

Ward, W. Va., Aug. 3.—Miners have denounced the claim of J. W. Dawson that the miners of this state are responsible for the shortage of coal.

The miners say that when men go into the mines under conditions they have to face, efficiency is decreased 50 per cent and in many cases they cannot work at all.

The mining laws are not being complied with, the men have not sufficient air, and worn-out machinery is continually breaking down.

"What would the American people say about the administration if they would send our boys across the water to face Huns with broken Springfields and not enough ammunition?" the miners ask.

Officials of district Miners' union No. 17 have issued a similar statement from their Charleston office.

APPEALS TO COLORED MEN.

Louisville, Ky., Aug. 3. — George Eddy of this city, colored delegate to the last convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers, sends this appeal to colored iron, steel and tin workers everywhere:

"Colored men ought to be unionized because it helps make better conditions for the working man. All colored men ought to get together and organize so that they can demand what they ought to have had years ago.

"Colored men of the United States of America and Canada, take this proposition up and begin at once, for this is no time to wait—the sooner the better, then all will be well."

CANADIAN FOOD COSTS.

Ottawa, Ontario, Aug. 3.—In the Labor Gazette, published by the Dominion department of labor, it is stated that the average cost of a family budget of staple foods in some 60 cities at the middle of June was $12.77 as compared with $12.66 for May, $11.89 for June, 1917, and $7.55 for June, 1914.

In wholesale prices the departmental index number was up to 280.6 as compared with 273.8 in May, 242.7 in June, 1917, and 136.3 in June, 1914.

TO SAFEGUARD HEALTH.

Washington, Aug. 3.—That the health of workers on war contracts may be safeguarded the war labor policies board has authorized the head of each contracting department of the government to designate representatives to enforce such provisions. The board is also preparing contract provisions which will compel all war contractors to observe existing state labor legislation.

WANT THREE-MAN POWER.

Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 3.—Copper interests in this state are behind a proposed law which would abolish the present workmen's compensation act and the employers' liability law and place the power in the hands of three men appointed by the governor.

WANT EIGHT HOURS.

Duluth, Minn., Aug. 3.—Reduction of the work day from 10 to eight hours is asked by organized electrical workers employed on the coal docks in this city and Superior, Wis.

JUSTICE FOR MOONEY BLOCKED BY COLD LAW

MOONEY'S EXECUTION DELAYED BY GOVERNOR

San Francisco, Aug. 3.—The execution of Thomas Mooney, set for August 23, has been postponed until December 13 next by Gov. Stephens.

San Francisco, Aug. 3.—Under the caption "Law and Justice in the Mooney Case," the editor of the San Francisco Bulletin prints this summary of the state supreme court's denial of a new trial for Thomas Mooney:

"The court of last resort in the state has finally decided that its powers do not enable it to take the extraordinary step which justice requires. This is because there is no provision in the code of California by which a court may purge its own records of testimony subsequently found to be false. Such a remedy exists in some states under the form of the writ of coram nobis, by which the parties to a case may be summoned by the court and their evidence reviewed and amended. As the law of California is comprised within its code, and as no writ of coram nobis is mentioned in the code this remedy could not be used in this case, no matter how flagrant the perjury appeared. Executive clemency, space for which was left in the constitution out of a belief that such cases as this might arise, is the only remaining recourse. Executive clemency is equity transcending law where the law proves inadequate.

"The legal facts about Mooney's trial, as shown in the record, are that he was duly tried, that no error appeared, and that the period during which attorneys for the defense might have been granted a new trial was suffered to elapse without such action. The practical facts are, of course, that Mooney was convicted on perjured testimony, so that in equity he was not convicted at all. This was a case where the letter killeth and spirit giveth life. The naked law surrounded the case like an iron fence, in which those who want justice for Mooney have vainly tried to find an opening.

"The effect that this has had in turning Russian revolutionary opinion against the United States is incalculable. It has even tended to estrange the workers of allied and neutral countries, and has been the subject of embarrassing diplomatic conversations between our government and those of six or seven other countries.

"It is consequently of vast importance that the case be rightly understood as well as honestly dealt with. It should be made plain that it was not the unwillingness of our courts to repair an injustice but their inability to do so that has kept Mooney so long without a fair trial, that even though Oxman had been convicted instead of being whitewashed and even though the victims of the parade turned out not to have been injured, after all, no court could now interfere."

WON'T MEET EMPLOYES.

Washington, Aug. 3. — President Schlesinger and other officials of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union have been conferring with Secretary of Labor Wilson on the strike of 4,000 Cleveland garment workers, who are asking for wage increases of 30 per cent.

Government statistics show that Cleveland pays the lowest wage in the country in this industry, over 40 per cent of the male workers receiving less than $900 a year.

The employers are clinging to the ancient belief that they have a right to "run their own business," regardless of the effect on society, and have refused to meet their workers, and have assumed a similar attitude toward representatives of the United States department of labor. Because some of these employers have army uniform contracts, the war department's representative attempted to conciliate differences, but the employers declined to change their "I-am-it" policy.

WESTERN UNION INDICTED.

New York, Aug. 3.—A federal grand jury has indicted the Western Union Telegraph company on charges of having transmitted messages by mail.

It is claimed that 346,417 messages were carried by messengers between August 2, 1917, and June 15, 1918. The company would place a large number of night telegrams, directed to Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, in charge of an employe, who would go to these cities on fast trains and deliver them to waiting messengers, who would take them to the office in that city and have them delivered the next morning.

This service was in reality not much faster than post office special delivery, but the telegraph company charged the regulation telegraph toll.

PACKERS' SCHEME BLOCKED.

Chicago, Aug. 3.—Judge Alschuler has blocked meat packers in their attempt to evade his eight-hour day arbitration award of March 30 last.

Since the decision the packers have been calling for men at 9, 11, and even at 2 o'clock to do their day's work. Formerly these men had a definite starting hour.

Judge Alschuler rules that if an employe does not complete his eight hours by 5:30 p. m., he is entitled to overtime pay at the rates specified in his original award.

LEWIS ON U. S. WIRE WORK.

Washington, Aug. 3.—The president has issued an executive order detailing David J. Lewis, commissioner, United States tariff commission, to the post office department for duties in connection with the government's control of the telegraph and telephone systems.

The appointee was formerly congressman from Maryland and a member of the labor group in that body.

CANADIAN UNIONS TO MEET.

Quebec, Aug. 3.—The annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will be held in this city beginning September 16.

This organization consists of unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and deals with legislation of interest to the Canadian workers.

MORE TWO PLATOONS.

San Francisco, Aug. 3.—The [illegible] of fire commissioners has accep[illegible] two-platoon system, which [illegible] ored at last year's genera[illegible] The long-hour plan will [illegible] ed on August 3.